Modern Greek Studies Foundation

Μαντατοφόρος*

The Nikos Kazantzakis Chair

Center for Modern Greek Studies
San Francisco State University

Winter 1989 *MANDATOPHOROS: Bearer of news, messenger Vol. 5, No. 1

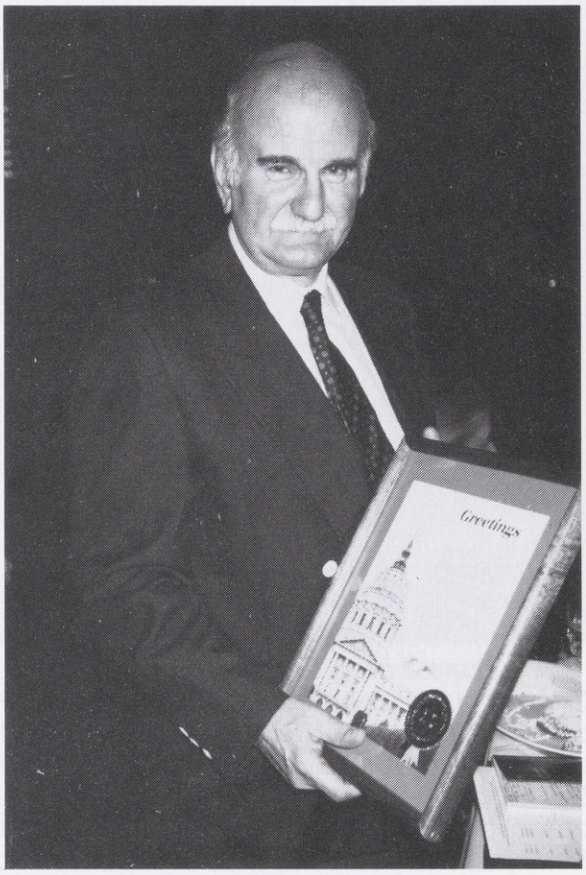
Cretan Gala Dinner Dance - A Success !

The Modern Greek Studies Foundation's first annual dinner dance, a gala Cretan benefit event for the Nikos Kazantzakis endowed Chair, proved a tremendous success, and together with the fabulous auction, made for a truly memorable evening. The November 19 affair, held at Oakland's Church of the Ascension, netted $26,700—all of which will go to the Kazantzakis Chair Endowment which supports the Modern Greek studies program at San Francisco State University.

Approximately three hundred guests enjoyed the gala. Ticket sales and income from the auction accounted for the majority of the proceeds; the gourmet meal was substantially underwritten through a generous donation from **George and Judy Marcus** (Mr. Marcus is chairman of the board of the MGSF). **Sotiris Kitrilakis** and **Angel Stoyanof** directed the preparation of the exquisite food and selection of fine wines, and are commended for their outstanding work.



At the dinner dance, left to right: Fanis Economides, President, United Hellenic Societies; John Bakas, past president, Hellenic American Professional Society; George Marcus, Chairman of the Board, Modern Greek Studies Foundation and San Francisco State University trustee; John Vasil, attorney and MGSF Board member.



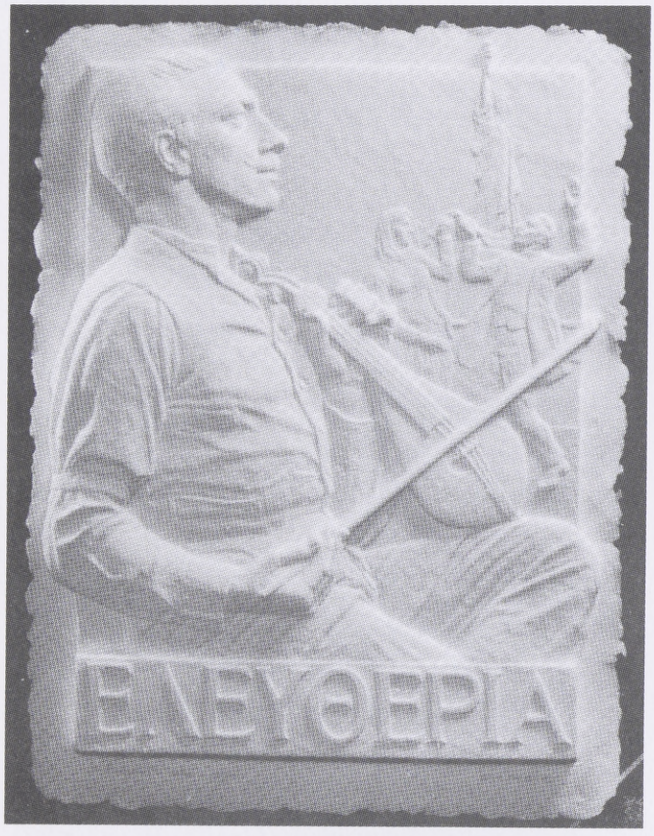
Harry Mark Petrakis, special guest speaker, displays his citation from the City of San Francisco.

Senator Nicholas C. Petris, Foundation president, **George Marcus** and **Socrates Mamakos** served as honorary auctioneers. S.F. State was represented by **President Robert Corrigan, Provost Eric Solomon, Dean of Humanities Nancy McDermid** and other university officials; the honorable **Dimis Vassilakis,** consul general of Greece, and the honorable **Dr. Anastasios Simonides,** honorary consul general of Cyprus, were

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An Appeal for *Eleftheria*

The masterful bronze relief ***Eleftheria,*** by eminent Greek American sculptor **Evangelos Frudakis,** is presently on extended loan to the Modern Greek Studies Collection at San Francisco State University. The work is one of a limited edition series that was commissioned by the Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Foundation "to honor the memory of immigrants and depict their experiences as they arrived in America at Ellis Island."



The stunning bas-relief also represents Crete and the spirit of freedom, both of which are profoundly linked to Nikos Kazantzakis. The Modern Greek Studies Foundation strongly feels that *Eleftheria* should become part of the Kazantzakis collection of Cretan art and artifacts at S.F. State. *Eleftheria* retails for $4,000, but it has been made available to us for $1,000 (at cost). The MGSF would greatly appreciate a tax deductible donation of $1,000, made expressly for the purchase of this important work of art. Please call (415) 338-1892 for details.

MGSF Board Meeting

The Modern Greek Studies Foundation Board of Directors will hold their annual meeting on Friday, February 10, 1989, at 7:30 p.m. The dinner meeting will take place at John's Grill, 63 Ellis Street, in San Francisco.

Modern Greek Studies Classes - Spring 1989

Language

Greek 251 **Modern Greek II** MWF 12-1
Second Semester Beginning Greek
Instructor: Effie Kalafatis

Greek 470 **Modern Greek IV** (To be arranged)
Advanced modern Greek
Instructor: Effie Kalafatis

Literature

WCL 815 **Special Seminar** on Homer's ***Odyssey*** and Kazantzakis' ***The Odyssey: A Modern Sequel***
Instructor: Thanasis Maskaleris

Non-University students can register through San Francisco State University's Extended Education. Call Extended Ed. at 338-1375 or the Center for Modern Greek Studies at 338-1892 for more information.

Cretan Gala Dinner Dance, cont'd.

among the speakers. Auction treasures included original art works by Ghika, sculptor Evangelos Moustakas, painter Gregory Kondos and ceramist Thanos Johnson; an Aegean cruise and a land tour of Greece were donated by Epirotiki Lines and Hermes/CHAT Tours, respectively.

Greek American writer **Harry Mark Petrakis,** the next visiting professor to the Kazantzakis Chair, was special guest speaker at the event, and received a citation from the City of San Francisco, signed by Mayor Art Agnos. **Ta Kritika Paidia** performed Cretan folk dances—beautifully—and, following the dinner, guests danced to tunes by**The Greeks** and Cretan musicians. Many thanks to all who helped coordinate this first annual benefit, especially to the Planning Committee--chaired by Peter & Susan Haikalis--and to the many contributors. Plans are now underway for next year's event!

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The Benefit Auction

Item/Artist	Highest Bidder
Ghika - original drawing from a series of illustrations for Kazantzakis' The Odyssey: A Modern Sequel. *Donated by Kimon Friar.*	*Lilica Anderson*
Evangelos Moustakas - "Bronze Angel," sculpture. Donated by artist.	*Nicholas C. Petris*
Gregory Kondos - "Sea Rock," lithograph. Donated by artist.	*Judy Marcus*
Thanos Johnson - "Forrest of Stone at Meteora," porcelain glazed panel. Donated by artist.	*TheanoVona*
* * *	* * *
Seven-day cruise of eastern Mediterranean for two. Donated by Epirotiki Lines.	*Susan Haikalis*
Four-day classical tour of Greece for two. Donated by CHAT Tours-Athens.	*Michael Reppas*
* * *	* * *
Baldwin piano, acrosonic spinet with bench. Donated by Mr. & Mrs. Socrates Mamakos.	*Michael Reppas*
Antique Grecian urn, Cretan, 18th century, Minoan style. Donated by Mr. & Mrs. George Vasiloudis.	*Judy Marcus*
Complete works of Nikos Kazantzakis, Greek edition, 25 volumes. Donated by Mrs. Eleni Kazantzakis.	*TheanoVona*
Furs - offered by Cosmos & Coriana Furs, Millbrae, CA.	*Christopher Georgiou and Christina Papadakis*



Bidder Susan Haikalis

1988 Dinner Dance Contributors

George & Judy Marcus
Angelo & Sophia Tsakopoulos
Hellenic American Professional Society of California
Sotiris & Matina Kolokotronis
Chrysanthy Leones
Maria Petersen

* * *

Charles Adams
Patricia Aleck
Elizabeth Anderson
Lilica & Kinsey Anderson
Gust & Connie Aretos
John Bardis
Theodore Bogdanos
John & Jane Cambus
Anastasia Condas
Christina Duvaras
Lynn Feintech
Vaggelis & Cheryl Fragiadakis
Panos & Irene Gianaras
George Haikalis
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League of Cretans, "Epimenides" Chapter, S.F.
Mary & Nick Mastras
Jennie Pappas
Gus & Marie Petris
Poulicos Prastacos
Gilbert Rosoff
Nicholas Rozakos
George & Mary Thodos
Athena Vutiritsas

Last Temptation Discussion

Thanasis Maskaleris, director of the Center for Modern Greek Studies and professor of classics, creative writing, and comparative and modern Greek literature at San Francisco State University, spoke on Nikos Kazantzakis' *Last Temptation of Christ*—both the novel and the film—at a talk sponsored by the Hellenic American Professional Society. The discussion, held at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Ascension, focused on Kazantzakis' attempt to understand God, and his ultimate love of Christ....

Dated Material

Modern Greek Studies Foundation
P.O. Box 22243
San Francisco, CA 94122

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* STUDY IN GREECE *

The following is the first in a series in which Mandatophoros *will periodically present those "study in Greece" programs that are affiliated with the Center for Modern Greek Studies. Nick Germanacos, founder and director of the* **Ithaka** *program, explains his and* **Ithaka***'s educational philosophy:*

A Greek of the Diaspora, I always yearned to leave Britain and return to the land of my ancestors. I did so at 25. In Athens, I taught, wrote, translated and published modern Greek poetry and prose. In 1974, dissatisfied with conventional education, and unhappy with what I perceived as a warped view of modern Greece prevailing in the west (the result of specious philhellenism and tourism), I decided to try to show the Anglo-Saxon world the real Greece, "warts and all," the Greece I had come to know and love after 14 hard years of travel, labor, joy, and tears.

So it is I conceived the idea of cultural study programs on Kalymnos, one of the least known islands, but one in which the old traditions of Greece, robust and enduring, rich and heroic, survived strongly. I designed a program based on the British tutorial system that had nurtured me, just as rigorous and demanding—a fact confirmed over the years by students, parents and our distinguished Greek, British and American tutors.

Our semesters combine an intensive academic scrutiny of major aspects of Greek life, history and culture. The tutors are superb and live with their students in a true learning community; our standards are the highest; and we include an experiential component as strong and demanding as our academic program, for our students are required to participate in the daily life of Greece by serving as apprentices to craftsmen, farmers, housewives, social workers, etc.

We insist on small groups—we accept 15 students on each program, and there are never fewer than 5 tutors living with them. I must also add that our selection process is strict—and must be—for obvious reasons. Finally, a hallmark of **Ithaka** is our ability to assemble not only fine scholars and artists in our faculty, but, above all, master teachers, true mentors.

Today, **Ithaka** offers programs to various age groups:

1) Two Mentor Semesters, one on Kalymnos, the other in Karystos, on Evvia, for students 16-19, who may continue their study with us by attending our Senior Mentor Semester, following their first terms. Years of experience have shown that successful attendance of a Mentor Semester and a strong recommendation from us can be an important factor affecting a student's admission to college.

2) The Collegiate Semester, open to college students and based in Chania, Crete. We have formed an ad hoc consortium of colleges that send us students and award credit. This program includes an in-depth examination of the social, economic and political problems facing Greece today.

3) The Junior Travel & Study Program, for 14-17-year-olds, which runs in the summer on Kalymnos. It is an exciting introduction to Greece and to serious, contemplative travel for the younger student.

It is by no means only ancient Greece that can teach us, but Byzantine and modern Greece, too. I believe we can learn not only from the great men our nation has produced, but also from its "simple folk"—the wizened yiayia and village priest, the sailor and shepherd, the working woman and the mother—the extraordinary people who have kept hellenism alive and thriving in the face of appalling suffering and adversity for 3500 years.

My wife, a San Francisco-born American writer, fell in love with Greece at 18, speaks Greek with fluency and passion, and has worked with me to make **Ithaka** the splendid educational and cultural paradigm it has become. For young Greek-Americans, the yearning to explore their ancestral land and culture must, I imagine, be as great as mine was in my teens. All Greeks know the force of *nostos*. **Ithaka** enables our students to take a journey into the past of western civilization and into the present of a remarkable culture and people. It is a journey that has changed the lives of many hundreds of young Americans these past 15 years.

Ithaka is non-profit, incorporated in the State of California. Our head office is in Cambridge, Massachusetts (Box 1420, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117, 617-868-4547), and our west coast office in San Francisco (830 Clayton Street, S.F., CA 94117, 415-759-7875). Please write or call for further information—brochures, curricula, faculty, alumni, etc.

Nick Germanacos, Director
Ithaka